

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
31 July 2003 (31.07.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2003/062863 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H01S 3/00**,
C03C 3/112

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/IL2003/000055

(22) International Filing Date: 22 January 2003 (22.01.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/349,342 22 January 2002 (22.01.2002) US

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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

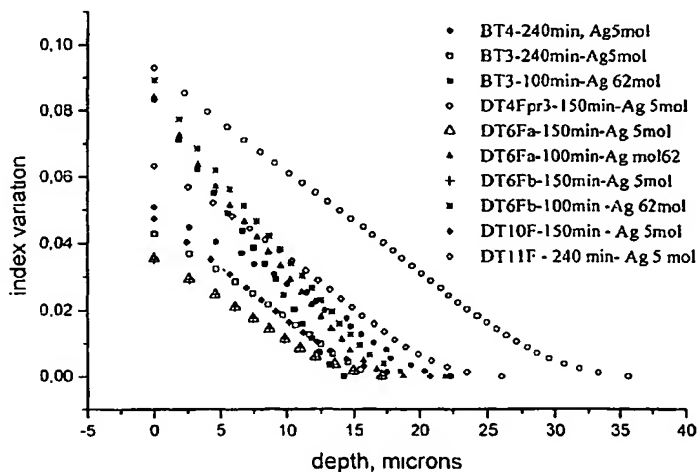
(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: POTASSIUM FREE ZINC SILICATE GLASSES FOR ION-EXCHANGE PROCESSES



(57) Abstract: A fluorinated zinc-silicate glass having a composition, expressed in molar percent, of essentially from about 49 to about 69 % SiO₂, from about 2 % to about 30 % ZnO, from about 3.9 to about 18 % Al₂O₃, from about 10 % to about 16.7 % Na₂O, from about 0 % to about 13 % B₂O₃, from about 0 % to about 0.8 % MgO, from about 0 % to about 0.7 % BaO, from about 0 % to about 3 % ZrO₂, from about 0 % to about 6.7 % CaO, from about 0 % to about 0.11 % As₂O₃, from about 0 % to about 0.07 % Sb₂O₃, from about 0 % to about 3 % NaF and from about 0 % to about 3.9 % AlF₃. The glass can be prepared in optical quality slabs, is chemically durable in water, NaNO₃ salt melts and boiling NaOH, and has a refractive index close to that of the optical fiber to reduce coupling losses. The glass includes Na as a single alkali ion species exchangeable for silver in an ion-exchange process that provides a sufficient index change for waveguiding.

WO 2003/062863 A3



(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
31 March 2005

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IL03/00055

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : HO1S 3/00; CO3C 3/112
US CL : 359/342, 341.5; 501/57, 58, 59

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 359/342, 341.5; 501/57, 58, 59

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6,410,467 B1 (Dickinson et al) 25 June 2002 (25.06.2002) Whole document.	1-11
A	US 6,503,860 B1 (Dickinson et al) 07 January 2003 (07.01.2003) Whole document.	1-11
A	US 6,303,528 B1 (Speit et al) 16 October 2001 (16.10.2001) Whole document.	1-11

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

06 November 2004 (06.11.2004)

Date of mailing of the international search report

15 FEB 2005

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